SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS
Exhibit No. 3
Date 4-10-07 #2
Bill No. HB 343

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Large Animal Clinical Sciences

March 30, 2007

William Hoppe
North Yellowstone Outfitters
172 Jardine Road
Gardiner, Montana 59030

Re: Information – Echinococcosis

Dear Mr. Hoppe:

You requested information on a disease called "Echinococcosis" as it was discovered in the lungs of an adult female elk in SW Montana this past February. "Echinococcosis" is the disease state created by a tapeworm, *Echinococcus granulosus*. The adult tapeworm's most likely host for this genus and species are dogs and wolves. The intermediate stage of the life cycle of the tapeworm is known as hydatid cysts which was discovered in the lung tissue of this cow elk. The adult tapeworm is of little concern to the host (dogs and wolves); but the hydatid cyst stage (affecting other species) can locate in multiple tissues (lung and liver being the most likely). The damage, and thus disease state, is caused as the cyst or cysts grow/expand within the substance of those tissues. A single cyst and create multiple daughter cysts.

The most common "reported" animals that have known to become victims of the disease state are humans and sheep. It has been identified in other species (muskrats, elk, etc.). I believe it important to note the importance of the word "reported" as it is very likely that most affected and/or dead wildlife are never examined much less necropsied and thus the incidence is unknown. In summary, dogs and wolves carry the adult tapeworm which is the source, via their feces, for the subsequent stage (hydatid cyst) which causes the disease. Based on your location and proximity to a wolf population I strongly suggest that wolves would be the most likely source. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Yours very truly,

William Moyer, DVM
Professor and Head

/tlb

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